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The Editor will gratefully receive contributions, in English or Tamil, of articles on matters of *National War Front interest*, and publish them, if suitable, as signed articles, in the Bulletin. The articles should be short and reach the Editor a week in advance.

'POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION'

—See Page 19.

LECTURE CCXXVI.

MR. CHURCHILL'S WARNING.

THE LAST LAP.

"I must warn the House and the country against any indulgence in the feeling that the war will soon be over. It may be, but do not indulge in the feeling that we should now be able to turn our thoughts to a new phase in world-history which will open with the close of this war.

"I took occasion some months ago to damp down premature hopes by speaking of the German war as running into January-February.

"I could see disappointment in several quarters as I looked round the House, and I followed this up quickly by indicating the late spring or early summer as the period which we must take into account as possibilities. My present inclination is not at all to mitigate those forecasts or guesses—for they can be little more than guesses.

"Indeed, if I were to make any change in the duration of the unfolding of events it would be to leave out the word 'early' before the word 'summer.'

"I know the British people and I know this House, and there is one thing they will not stand and that is not being told how bad things are.

"If it is humanly possible to do it without endangering affairs, one is always well-advised to tell the people how bad things are. On a number of occasions I have greatly revived the energy and ardour of this House by giving them an account of the shocking position we were in invarious quarters, and how very likely things were to get worse, before they got better.

"It weighs intensely and preponderantly upon us and upon every form of our national life. All else must still be subordinated to this supreme task.

"It is on the foe that our eyes must be fixed, and to break his resistance down demands the most intense exertions of Great Britain, the U. S. and all the United Nations and converted satellites, all the forces that can be brought to bear. This is just the moment not to slacken.

"Of the races which the calendar holds, nearly all are won in the last lap, and it is then when one is most tired, that a sense of boredom seems to weigh upon one, that even the most glittering, exciting, brilliant events are, as it were, covered by Saturn, that headlines in newspapers, though perfectly true, succeed one another in their glowing emphasis, and yet, the end seems to recede before us.

"We, in this island, have to give that extra ounce of exertion and effort, that boundless and inexhaustible dynamic energy that we have shown.

"Tirelessness is what we have to show now, and here I must observe that it is one thing to feel this tremendous drive of energy at the beginning of the war, when your country is likely to be invaded, and you do not know that you will not have to die honourably—but soon (*laughter*), it is one thing to exhibit those qualities at such a moment, and quite another to show them in the sixth year of the war. On the other hand, we must remember that the enemy, whose country is invaded, has also the supreme stimulus to which we ourselves responded in the very dark days of 1940 and 1941. The preponderence of war weighs down upon us all. And after the German war we must not forget there is the war with Japan."

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

(A)—LEADING EVENTS.

21—11—44 (Tuesday).	French 1st Army reaches the *RHINE* in a dramatic drive.
	Red-army breaks through defences in *OESEL* Island in the Gulf of *RIGA*.
	Allies liberate *TIRANA*, the capital of *ALBANIA*.
22—11—44 (Wednesday).	Allies capture *MONTE FORTINO* in Italy.
	French 1st army takes *MULHOUSE* in France.
23—11—44 (Thursday).	French troops complete the liberation of *BELFORT*.
	Russian troops open a new attack on Eastern *CZECHOSLOVAKIA*.
	Americans capture *LIMON* in Leyte (Philippines).
	Allies bomb *TOKYO*.
24—11—44 (Friday).	Allies capture *STRASBOURG*.
	Russians liberate *OESEL* Island in the Gulf of *RIGA*.
25—11—44 (Saturday).	British troops reach the *MAAS* at two new points.
	Allies reach the outskirts of *FAENZA* in Italy.
26—11—44 (Sunday).	General Wilson succeeds late Sir John Dill as head of the British Joint Staff Mission in U. S. A.
	F. M. Alexander succeeds General Wilson as supreme Commander of the Mediterranean theatre.
	Red Army takes 2 more towns in *CZECHOSLOVAKIA*.
27—11—44 (Monday).	American 1st army troops are less than 4 miles from *DUREN* in Germany.

(B) NEWS IN BRIEF.

THE WESTERN FRONT.—

Last week, at the southern end, the German front in ALSACE-LORRAINE collapsed. This week, heavy fighting is reported at the northern end, west of COLOGNE, to the north of which lies the industrial area of the Ruhr. Three Allied armies, one British and two American, are engaged here.

(1) **Holland.**—The west bank of the Maas has been cleared. VENLOO has been reached. NETRIK and HORST have been captured. The enemy has evacuated ROERMOND.

(2) **The British 2nd Army.**—co-operating with the U. S. 9th and 1st Armies, is driving towards COLOGNE. Heavy fighting is reported N. E. of GEILENKIRCHEN.

(3) **The U. S. 9th Army.**—is fighting in the GERONS-WEILER, KIRCHBAR and KOSLAR areas and is moving towards JULICH, a road junction on the way to COLOGNE. It has captured ESCHWEILER, BARMEN MERZENHAUSEN and KOSLAR, and has launched a new attack N. W. of LINNICH, 16 miles N. E. of AACHEN.

(4) **The U. S. 1st Army.**—is pushing towards Duren east of AACHEN on the way to the Ruhr, and has captured WEISWEILER, HOVEN, GUCHELIN, BOURHEIM, PUTZOHN, ALTDORF FRENZ, LANGERWEHE, JUGENSDORF and MERODE.

(5) **The U. S. 3rd Army.**—has crossed the Saar and the German frontier, and threatens the industrial region beyond the Saar. It has reached MERZIG on the Seigfried Line, and taken BUTZDORF, TETTINGEN, UBIRINGEN, SOMMY, BLAISE, OBERSCH, LONGEVILLE, SAINT AVOLD, HUNKIRCH and WOLFSKIRCHEN.

(6) **The U. S. 7th Army.**—has completed the capture of STRASBOURG and taken MOMMENSHELM and SAALS. It has also crossed the Rhine.

(7) **The French 1st Army.**—crossing the Rhine, has taken ASPACH, ROMAGNY and DANNEMARIE, all near BELFORT.

THE EASTERN FRONT—

OESEL ISLAND in the Gulf of Riga has been liberated. The whole of the Estonian Soviet Republic is now free.

In Central EUROPE, fighting has flared up in the mountains of east CZECHOSLOVAKIA. The Dukla Pass has been approached. Two offensives have been launched, one from TOKAY in HUNGARY and the other from the CSAP area in the Carpathians.

In CZECHOSLOVAKIA MICHALOVCE and HUMENNE have been taken. In HUNGARY, HATVAN CSEPEL (an island on the Danube) PECS MOHACS and BATASZEK have been captured.

Marshal Tito has liberated BUDVA near the Albanian border, KOTOR (Cattaro), a naval base and RASKA, a monastery town.

Italy.—The outskirts of FAENZA have been reached. The 8th Army is on the Lamona River east of FAENZA, and is advancing towards RUSSEI. CHIESUOLA, CASTELLACCIO, MONTE BELVEDRE, MONTE BICOCA and MONTE PRUNOTE have been captured.

Burma.—East African troops captured the village of KYIGON, west of KALEWA. The Chinese have taken MENKA, east of CHEFANG and PINWE on the way to MANDALAY. 14th Army troops have liberated NANBON.

The Pacific.—American Super-Fortresses bombed TOKYO, the capital of JAPAN, thrice and damaged centres of aircraft production.

North of JAPAN, the island of MAKUSA was heavily shelled.

In the PHILIPPINES, LIMON on LEYTE Island has been captured.

China.—Japanese forces driving from HENGYANG in HUNAN and from CANTON have joined at LUCHOW, but this offensive has come to a stand-still in the hills of N. KWANGSI.

ALLIED AIR-RAIDS.

19—11—44. (Sunday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—

Communications and supply lines behind the enemy lines from NIJMEGEN to BELFORT.
The rail and water transport centre of MUNSTER.
Troop concentrations and military barracks; Troops, armoured units and Gun positions in the immediate battle areas.
Oil-storage and transport facilities in the MUNICH, HANAU and ULM areas.
The oil-plant at WANNE EICKEL.
Air fields at LECHFELD, LEIPHEIM and MENGEN.
Troop concentrations and other targets in AUSTRIA, HUNGARY and YUGOSLAVIA.
Air-combats and grounded aircraft all along the Eastern Front. (25 enemy planes shot down).

FAR EAST.

Japanese communication lines and water-front installations in the ORMOC Corridor.

BURMA.

Railway-yards at MOKPALIN.
A train in the CHINDWIN region.
Sidings at MARTABAN.
Railway targets in SIAM.
Railway station at MANPWE.
Ammunition dumps at KAWLIN.
Railway-yards at SAGAING.

20—11—44. (Monday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—

Enemy's rail and road supply routs to the battle front.
Road and railway bridges at VENLOO.
Railway targets at KEMPEN and VIERSEN.
An ordnance depot at PIRMASENS.
A synthetic oil-plant near GELSENKIRCHEN.
Railway-yards at MUNSTER.
Targets in the COBLENZ, AIESBADEN and the BONN areas.
Objectives in the RUHR.
Oil-refineries at BLECHHAMMER and a railway between SARAJEVO and BROD.
Air-combats and grounded aircraft all along the Eastern Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap troops and other targets in ORMOC BAY (Leyte).

BURMA.

Supporting ground operations in N. BURMA.
Railway-yards at SAGAING.

21—11—44 (Tuesday).

GERMANY and other battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—

Oil targets and factories in HAMBURG and MAGDEBURG (73 enemy planes shot down; 57 Allied planes missing).
A rocket-launching site in the NETHERLANDS.
A German convoy off the N.W. coast of YUGOSLAVIA.
An oil-refinery in CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
Transport targets in ALBANIA and YUGOSLAVIA.
Air combats all over the Eastern Front.
Communication targets in the PO Valley in Italy.

NIGHT:—

Oil-plants at STERKRADE and CASTROPRAUXEL.
Laying mines in enemy waters.

FAR EAST.

Air-craft factories at OMURA.
The docks at NANKING.
Military storage and transhipment facilities in SHANGHAI.

BURMA.

An industrial target in S. BURMA.
Jap communications in the CHINDWIN region.

22—11—44 (Wednesday).

GERMANY and other battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—

Oil targets in HAMBURG and MERSEBURG.
A German army H. Q. in HOLLAND.
Targets in MUNICH area and AUSTRIA.
SALZBURG.
Railway yards in VALLACH (Austria).
Troop concentrations and other targets in YUGOSLAVIA.
The fortified town of DUREN (Germany).
Enemy troops and transport in the battle area in GERMANY.
Air-combats and grounded aircraft all along the Eastern Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap strong points in the BONIN and PALAU Groups and YAP (Carolines).

BURMA.

Harbours and jetties in S. BURMA.
Shipping and float-planes at many places in S. BURMA.

23—11—44 (Thursday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—

The synthetic oil-plant at GELSENKIRCHEN.
The harbour at COS (AEGEAN).
Retreating German troops, bridges and communications in YUGOSLAVIA.
Troop concentrations and other targets in Northern ITALY.
Air-combats and grounded aircraft all along the Eastern Front (70 German planes shot down).

NIGHT:—

Objectives in HANOVER and other places in Eastern and Western GERMANY.
Air-fields behind the battle areas in GERMANY.

FAR EAST.

TOKYO (Capital of Japan).
A Jap convoy off LEYTE.
Targets on the BONIN and KURILE Islands.
KOBE and YOKOHA.

BURMA.

Targets between MANDALAY and LASHIO.
A schooner in the Gulf of MARTABAN.
Air-support to ground operations.

24—11—44. (Friday).
GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.
DAY:—
The synthetic oil-plant at NORDSERN near Gelsenskirchen in the RUHR.
Communications behind the enemy lines on the Western Front.
Bridges over the LAMONE River in Italy.
Communications and bridges across the PO River in Italy.
NIGHT:—
BERLIN (Germany).
LINZ and **MUNICH** (Germany).
Laying mines in enemy waters.

FAR EAST.

Jap bases in the BONIN Group.
Jap positions on the N. PALAUL Islands, MARIANAS and CAROLINES.

BURMA.

Enemy positions and troop concentrations in the CHINDWIN region.
An ammunition dump on the ARAKAN Front.
3 bridges in Central BURMA.

25—11—44. (Saturday).
GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.
DAY:—
The oil-refineries at MERSEBURG.
Marshalling-yards at BINGEN.
A synthetic oil-plant in the RUHR and at LUTZENDORF.
Ground targets on the Western Front.
Enemy supply columns and rail-lines behind the ITALIAN Front.
Air-combats and grounded aircraft all along the Eastern Front (12 enemy planes shot down).
NIGHT:—
Military objectives in NUREMBERG and Other places in Western GERMANY.
Air-fields behind the German lines.

FAR EAST.

Jap cargo-ships off CEBU.
Japanese shipping and air-fields in and around LUZON (Philippines).
Japanese installations in the MARIANAS and Jap-held Atolls in the MARSHALLS.

BURMA.

KAYAUKSE (near Rangoon).
A railway bridge at SAMON.
Road communications in Central BURMA.
River-craft in the BASSEIN-NEMZADA area.

ENEMY AIR-RAIDS.

20—11—44 (Monday).
BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No enemy air activity.

21—11—44. (Tuesday).
BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No information.

22—11—44. (Wednesday).
BRITAIN and RUSSIA.
No enemy air activity.
FAR EAST.
American positions on LEYTE (Philippines).

23—11—44. (Thursday).
BRITAIN.
No information.
RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No enemy air activity.

24—11—44. (Friday).
BRITAIN.
Places in South ENGLAND.
RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No enemy air activity.

25—11—44. (Saturday).
BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No enemy air activity.

26—11—44. (Sunday).
BRITAIN.
Places on the South coast of ENGLAND.
RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No enemy air activity.

SIDE LIGHTS.

MAMMOTH BATTLES. 5,000 rounds of ammunition fired every minute; 8,000,000 rounds fired every month; 300,000 rounds on AACHEN alone; ammunition piled to last till February next, used up before November is over; over a million German soldiers annihilated since June 6; and more ammuntition wanted, if victory is to be speeded up and if human lives are to be spared—such is the account that General Eisenhower gives of the great battles now surging on the Western Front.

Here, three out of six Allied Armies on the German border are concentrated on the northern flank, where the British thrust is mainly directed. From this flank lies the shortest way to BERLIN. Here the German High Command has paid the British the compliment of placing as many as twelve of its Divisions—over half of them Panzers, against the British forces, on a narrow front of no more than 25 miles. Here again, in the words of the German News Agency, "a mammoth battle" is being fought "undistinguishable from the great battles of the first world-war". "The battle-field" it says, "is one vast armageddon of craters and ruins".

By bitter experience, or probably because Hitler no longer commands, the Germans have learnt the futility of holding on even after the situation has become hopeless. So, when the newly formed French Army earned its first laurels by capturing BELFORT and won its way across the Rhine, the German High Command gave ground, trusting to the national defences of the Black Forest beyond to delay further incursions in this sector, and transferred its forces to the more vital northern flank, where the Anglo-American pressure has assumed threatening proportions.

Yet, strange to say, these battles which the Germans call an "all-out winter offensive" are only preliminary to the still greater battles to come; still they are only dog-fights, slow, slogging and probing, with the immediate objective of thrusting into the Ruhr basin, the centre of German heavy war-industries. Important points on the Seigfried Line have been smashed, and wide gaps have been torn in the defences, but the Line is still unbroken.

Though AACHEN, METZ, BELFORT and GEILENKIRCHEN have been reduced, and the Rhine has been reached and crossed at some points; yet the successes are only in the nature of local gains, because, though the pressure is maintained along the whole front, the advance has not yet become general.

Says the *Daily Mail*:—"If you let yourself be carried away by any exaggerated presentation you may be disappointed. For this is no blitz into the Reich and never has been. The advance is a question of village by village. This is not the greatest battle of the war. The front is not ablaze in a wild inferno of fighting from Switzerland to Holland.

"So do not be hasty in drawing conclusions. Above all, do not judge the importance of an offensive by the size of the barrage that precedes it. It is becoming normal now to herald any attack with a concentration of guns. It is tactical bombing—part of the Allied offensive technique. 'German front-line strongholds have been pulverised with explosives and their defenders have been rendered half-stupified. But this vast barrage does not mean a break-through".

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AIR-BATTLES. Meanwhile, air-battles on an intensified scale are being waged behind the enemy's lines, with unrelenting vigour. Daily, the tale comes of centres of production and communication smashed beyond repair. The Germans are busy transfering their industries to safer places, if they can find any beyond the range of Allied planes, though they cannot carry the heavy industries of the Ruhr on their backs. They find that men and plants are none too easy to shift, with the railway system broken down. According to the latest reports, the German railway workers are reported to have reached the limit of endurance, filled "with a feeling of apathy and revolt".

Goebbels, after a tour of GERMANY's bombed towns, has himself borne testimony to the extent of the damage inflicted in the air-war. He has said, 'This summer and autumn have put us to the test as we never had been tested before in this war. But we are by no means out of the wood...Without doubt one of the gravest problems facing us to-day is the Allied air-offensive. To-day there is no alternative for the German people but to fight fanatically.'

THE VOLKSSTURM, the newest instrument which the Germans have forged to, carry on this 'fanatic' fight is already failing. A group of the Volkssturm surrendered the other day to the Americans near Metz. Reports come this week of their clashes with the S. S. troopers in S. E. Austria. Symptoms are there that these men are rising against their masters, now that they have been provided with weapons. Conscription is proving a double-edged sword. It has emboldened the men who were hitherto unarmed, and bore the tyranny in silence, to show their mind. Nazi party emblems are disappearing fast, and Nazi gauleiters in VIENNA are receiving intimations from civilians, urging them to make peace. One such letter said, " Many are thinking like this "; and commenting on this, the Gauleiter who received it, observed, ' The writer forgets that we cannot make peace. We did not want war, and we cannot stop it from continuing.

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THE VOLKSSTURM or Home Guard is a levy *en masse* of all males between 16 and 53, on a regional basis, with the gauleiters in charge. Any one who can carry and handle arms is regarded as able-bodied and enrolled. No marching ability is called for, which means that these forces cannot take part in mobile warfare. Their duties are described to be manning rear defences, holding enemy forces which break through or land from sea or air, protecting communication lines and supplying personnel to the Signals and Intelligence Services. In the event of an Allied break-through, its main function is defined to be to gain time for the *Wehrmacht* to regroup.

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BEGGING. The training of the Volkssturm is only in spare-time on Sundays, and their arms and equipment are none of the best. German officials have gone about begging for any arms or equipment that may be had. The appeal of one of these Gauleiters reads:—

"Training and service require solid clothing and foot-wear and all kinds of equipment. Therefore I ask the population to place at our disposal all suitable clothing, foot-wear and equipment which is not in use or is superfluous. Almost every family which has not yet been bombed out, still has some usable parts of uniform or equipment. They need not be armed forces' uniforms. Any Party or other uniforms, such as those of Customs officials, train conductors, railway officials, fire brigades, police, riflemen and foresters are also usable. Many retired civil servants surely have some such articles in their wardrobes. Uniforms of persons who have died or been killed in action can also be used for the defence of the Reich."

Such is the ragged force that GERMANY is raising inside her boundaries to meet the onslaught of the Allied Nations. For this GERMANY goes a begging for boots and uniforms.

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THE VOLK'S GRENADIERE DIVISIONS are a sister organisation to the Volkssturm and are different from it, even as the Guerillas are a third organisation different from the other two. All these three forces have been newly started The Grenadiers are an integral part of the *Wehrmacht*, but they consist of elderly men and youngsters, little qualified to stand the rigours of a front-line battle; they are ill-armed and ill-trained. These men are already found intermingled with the Regulars on the Western Front, and the Allies have taken their measure and discovered their want of experience

and stamina. They are liable to heavy casualities, especially when the fighting becomes mobile, and surrender freely. GERMANY hopes to resist by merely increasing the number of men at the front. Ill-trained and inexperienced armies are a liability, and their weakness infects the better trained soldiers. But a drowning man clutches at a straw.

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SHAKY. News comes of growing despair and apathy in the German Fatherland. A report from Basle tells of widespread disintegration within the Rich. Himmler's authority is weakening, his lieutenants are failing him, the vaunted Gestapo men are 'doffing their uniforms and badges'; Pictures and tracts demanding peace and recalling Stalingrad are circulated, and walls are covered with inscriptions of 'Down with Hitler'. The Maquis composed mainly of deserters from the *wehrmacht* are gaining strength, and assembling in the Bavarian and Tyrolean mountains.

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ON THE EASTERN FRONT, the indications are that the Zero hour is not far off for a Russian winter offensive. Half a dozen fronts are already flickering into action. With the liberation of OESEL Island-aircraft of the Russian Air Arm are striking at German shipping in the Baltic. Opposite TILSIT on the East Prussian border, Soviet forces are firmly established along the east bank of the Niemen. Russian armies have already bit into CZECHOSLOVAKIA, closing in from TOKAY and CSAP, and have cut the German positions on the Tisa. But mud and rain are proving obstacles. Streams running down from the Carpathians have swollen into rivers. The land is under water.

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UNREST. Inside HUNGARY, events are developing which may prove more useful than any military advance. Relations between GERMANY and her sole surviving European 'ally', says the *Daily Telegraph*, are reaching 'breaking point.' The possibility of a popular rising to overthrow the Nazi collaborators is now more than probable. Envoys are reported to have made their way to the Soviet lines with white flags to discuss the terms of surrender, and Hungarian soldiers when they are attacked, to put up hand-ker chiefs on bayonets, in token of surrender. All Nazi attempts to strengthen discipline have failed.

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THE BALKAN PICTURE is not quite clear yet. ALBANIA and YUGOSLAVIA now seem to be virtually free, with bands of Germans lately in occupation of the country fleeing and escaping. Tito's capture of KOTOR and BUDVA, and the cutting of the railway from BROD to SARAJEVO are the events of the week.

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IN ITALY, the Allied advance along the RIMINI—BOLOGNA Road is steady. The outskirts of FAENZA have been reached. The Germans have been finally driven from their positions on the Montone and the COSINO.

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EUROPE. With the Allied advance in all directions, European Capitals, ROME, PARIS, BRUSSELS, LUXEMBOURG, BUCHAREST, SOFIA, ATHENS and TIRANA have been freed one after another, and EUROPES' life, no longer under the oppression of the Nazi 'New Order' is returning

to normal. Everywhere, as one expected, a period of unrest and confusion attends the transition. But, thanks to Allied foresight, and sympathy, everywhere, including even faction-ridden BELGIUM and ITALY, there is an intense desire to come to terms, to build on popular foundations and seek a new life. Slowly and steadily the political scum that favoured the Nazis is being eliminated and attention is given to social and political development. Strange to say, the BALKANS, least expected to be quiet, are setting an example. The recent visit of the British Premier to MOSCOW has acted like magic. Before the MOSCOW talks Greeks were quarrelling, Bulgarians were asking to retain their spoils and Yugoslavs were uncertain allies. But now they have all fallen into line, resolved to pull together.

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ON LEYTE ISLAND, in the Philippines the Americans now contain the Japanese forces in the Ormoc Valley behind what is called the Yamashita Line. The Limon Pass has been closed. Japanese ground positions are being bombed from the air, while Japanese convoys attempting to bring reinforcements by sea are being continually mauled.

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TOKYO. The air-war over JAPAN has taken a new turn. The bombardments this time are not from Chinese bases, but from SAIPAN and GUAM, 1,500 miles away. The targets are the Japanese industries, especially, the aircraft-plants. Like GERMANY, JAPAN is now concentrating on fighter production to ward off the Allied blows. Like GERMANY, before the Allied assault on it began, JAPAN is now receiving aerial visits to reduce her factories. The real air-war over JAPAN has begun.

Gen. Arnold, Chief of the U. S. Air Forces has reported to President Roosevelt as follows :—

" The attack was in no sense a hit-and-run raid, but it is a calculated extension of our air-power. No part of the Japanese Empire is now out of our range ; no factory too remote to feel our bombs. The battle for JAPAN has been joined.

" The battle is just beginning. But to-day we opened against Tokyo an attack, which will be carried on relentlessly from the air, until the day of land and sea invasion.

" We will pound JAPAN's war-machine out of existence. No matter where the Japanese may try to hide their factories, we will seek them out and destroy them. We are going to do just that. JAPAN has sowed the wind, now let her reap the whirlwind "

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IN BURMA, Chinese troops are now inside the city of BHAMO. All the villages in the northern suburbs have been captured.

With BHAMO in Allied hands, the road link with encircled CHINA will be re-established. True, it is only a slender link as it cannot carry large supplies, but its psychological effect will be great. It will encourage CHINA badly shaken to-day.

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CHINA. Plans for making an Allied lodgement in CHINA are now complete. Gen. Wendemeyer has worked out the details Marshal Chiang Kai-Sheik has accepted them.

The recent reconstruction of the Chinese Government is also a step in the right direction. It broadens the basis of leadership by infusing younger blood. Gen. Chen

Cheng, the new War Minister has the reputation of being China's ablest field-commander, with a magnificent fighting record. Dr. Wang Shih Chiah, the new Minister of Information was recently the leader of the Chinese 'Good Will Mission'. Dr. T. V. Soong, the new Foreign Minister has long enjoyed the esteem of Allied Diplomats.

JOINT BASES, GUARANTEE OF SECURITY.

STRUCTURE OF WORLD PEACE.

(*The Times*).

Great Britain has an urgent task. On the one hand she must co-ordinate her action with her great partners in the world alliance and with her partners in the British Commonwealth, and on the other hand she must, with the co-operation of France and in company of the Low Countries and the Scandinavian kingdoms, build up a common organisation of mutual defence, the lack of which bore such tragic fruit in 1940.

These countries taken together form a single buttress of security in West Europe, corresponding to the buttress in the East of which Russia will be the main support, and the emergence of war has forged a link between them which should henceforth be indissoluble. Nothing could do more to cement it than an agreement among these countries for the common use of certain strategic bases, carrying with it an agreement for common action by their armed forces, and never has the prevailing sentiment among their people been more favourable to contracting such engagements.

Some of these common bases will be established, as they have been in time of War, on the territory of the United Nations themselves. Others will be established on the territory of the defeated enemy, and will remain as a permanent guarantee of security. Military occupation, properly so called, imposed on Germany after the war cannot for obvious reasons be indefinitely prolonged, and whether its duration be long or short, it will be imperative at the moment of its withdrawal to bring Germany within the scope of the general security system. The lasting instrument must be maintenance on German territory of joint bases at certain ports, and a number of strategic airfields, perhaps coinciding with ports of call of international civil aviation, and in this system of pooled security Germany, when she has at length served her term of penance and worked her passage back into the ranks of civilized nations, will be called on to co-operate with the other participants. Joint bases and joint contingents will thus remain on German soil, though with the title to their continuance amended. The occupation by the victorious Powers of the territory of the defeated enemy—inevitably limited in time and for this very reason a wasting asset—will eventually be replaced by a comprehensive and permanent order, military and political, which alone can in the long run bring unity and peace to Europe.

Once the issue of security is placed on this level, and treated as a matter not of negative measures of precaution and defence but of a common organisation for peace, the familiar difficulties fall into a new perspective and become more readily soluble. Among them is the time-honoured problem of strategic frontiers ; these cease to be relevant so long as instruments of security are maintained in the form of joint bases, whose location is determined under a common and accepted authority by considerations of strategic import, and not of national allegiance of the territory concerned.

Nor can a system of organised military security be divorced from the economic organisation which is a vital part of it. The control of "war potential" in the form of

industrial power can perhaps be achieved in the initial stage by the unilateral action of the victorious Powers. But like the more direct control of military occupation, such an action will prove a wasting asset, which cannot be effectively maintained over a long period through purely nagative measures of destruction or prohibition. Security of joint military bases must be complemented and completed by security of joint economic policies, through which German economy will be inseparably welded into the broader European frame-work. General de Gaulle had some such considerations in mind when he spoke recently of French interest in "a solution that combined the security of France and the Rhineland, and the economic unity of countries of the Rhine Basin, and the future of the Ruhr as the arsenal for peace." The promotion of such far-sighted policies, particularly in relation to the European region which has become the main preoccupation of British security, is the prime responsibility of British statesmanship.

DUAL AIR BLOWS ON GERMANY.

BOMBING OF OIL TARGETS.

(*By Wing Commander L. V. Fraser*).

Recent days have provided an excellent example of the vast range, variety and flexibility of Britain's air power.

On the one hand came the flashing blow by Lancasters of the Royal Air Force Bomber Command against Germany's last battleship, the *Tirpitz*. Across the waters of Tromso fjord came 29 Lancaster bombers. In spite of heavy fire from the ship's guns, (until a direct hit put them out of action), 12,000 lb. "earthquake" bombs were despatched. As the whole fjord clouded over with bomb-bursts, the crews could see the ship turn turtle. Here was the very stuff of air power, one of the great moments of the war. One of the Lancasters carried cameramen taking films of the action, that all the world might see what heavy bombs did to that battleship.

The implications of the destruction of the *Tirpitz* are equally plain. Carried out by aircraft primarily designed for night-bombing, yet made with brilliant precision in full daylight, the attack was a striking proof of the flexibility of Britain's aircraft as a weapon of war. In that one raid, not only was a huge blow struck at German morale, not only was a powerful battleship removed from any foreseeable hope of action in this war, but at the same time a constant threat to Allied supply lines to Russia was removed, and doubtless strong forces of the Royal Navy, hitherto pinned down by threat alone of the *Tirpitz*, may now be diverted to a more active purpose.

Yet, on the other hand, the destruction of the *Tirpitz* for all its brilliance, has probably not been the most important bombing action. The priority task of Allied heavy bombers has been as urgently as ever the steady bombing assault against enemy oil targets.

The reason is that the enemy has evolved a highly efficient and rapid technique for the repair of damaged oil plants. It is not sufficient to knock them out of action once. In order to keep German oil-production, upon which the enemy war economy must ultimately depend, down to its present low and inadequate level, it is essential for Allied heavy bombers to pay a return visit to targets at regular or irregular intervals.

That the game is worth the candle may be seen from the Western battlefield alone. So acute is the dearth of oil, that the *Luftwaffe* bomber force appears practically to be

grounded, while the mobility of German armies and labour is obviously under severe handicaps.

During October, the weight of bombs dropped on Germany by R. A. F. Bomber Command alone was three-and-a-half times as great as that dropped in October, 1943, and more than sixteen-and-a-half times as great as October, 1942. Yet the rate of loss in aircraft despatched last month was about one-fifth that of October, 1943, and one-sixth that of October, 1942.

Much of this happy improvement has been due to use by night of bomber support groups—Mosquito aircraft which fly with heavies giving them a sort of fighter cover and attacking enemy night-fighters and enemy airfields en route.

It is not easy to assess with accuracy the results of this heavy bomber campaign against enemy oil; they might be several months in revealing themselves. Of an attack such as that on the *Tirpitz*, results can be assessed at once; she lies upside down in water, with her topworks stuck into the bottom of the fjord, and that is that. But the results of a long and carefully planned strategic bomber offensive such as that on oil—equivalent to a great territorial campaign on land—are crusted over from view with a multitude of disguises.

Yet a good many concrete facts have already become clear. The assault has been stepped up, particularly against synthetic-oil installations, since the loss to Germany of the Rumanian oilfields, their great supply of crude natural oil. It is now known, for instance, that the great synthetic-oil plant at Brux in Sudetenland has not been able to resume normal operations since it was first attacked last May. The output of refineries treating what natural oil the Germans still dispose of has been reduced, it is estimated, to less than a quarter of its normal figure. Even if it should take months for these German calamities to filter through until their effects are observed in the actual field of battle, the facts are unmistakable, and they are there.

Viewed as a whole, the assault against oil installations is only part of a still larger picture. For the oil that is produced has still to be transported to the battle-fronts. There again, Allied air power interferes, cutting rail-tracks and forcing transport on to roads to use up still more oil, destroying en route or in dumps at the destination further portions of oil which escaped destruction at the source.

Perhaps the harvest is not quite yet. Perhaps it will not become evident until the Allied armies begin to press into the heart of Germany. But inevitably that harvest of German oil shortage will one day be gathered in, and it may well prove the most bountiful of the whole war.

TURKEY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

SHRINKAGE OF EXPORTS.

By Leonard Kirschen.

The break in diplomatic relations with Germany has given Turkey one or two economic problems to ponder over. And the problems Turkey has to think about grow acute as the war draws to an end.

Turkish economy is not of long-standing. In the old Ottoman days, trade was in the hands of foreigners, and business as we understand it was considered as something degrading by the Turkish middle classes. The revolution in Turkey has changed this, but the economic depression of the early thirties, the pre-war crisis with its race for

armaments and then the war itself, have all contributed enormously towards arresting what should have been a gradual and smooth building up of Turkish national economy.

The war came to be regarded as a golden age which Turkey would never see again. The excuse was that the Turkish peasant never had the possibility to make up for what centuries of Ottoman tax gatherers had done to him. On top of this, the atmosphere of "strict neutrality" was exploited to the full. Neutrality to most Turks meant a good position in the field between the belligerents, and a good chance of making money out of both.

The Government cannot be entirely blamed for this mentality. But it bears its own share of the general responsibtlity. The war mentality got hold of the Government as it had got hold of the commercial masses. The Anglo-Turkish Alliance was an excellent vehicle in order to obtain economic help and a guarantee for Lease-Lend.

Britain and the United States gave Turkey not only war material on this Lease-Lend scheme. For quite a good time before heavy war material could flow freely into Turkey, commercial goods were sent on a credit basis. A truly credit basis, because Turkey has still refused to sign a direct Lease-Lend agreement with the United States, saying that she could not undertake the burden of repaying in a stipulated time-limit.

The Germans with their stolen money and their stolen industries for long supplied the Turkish Government with some more or less essential goods, and swamped the local markets with Christmas toys and stationery.

Both the belligerents had to buy Turkish goods. The competition sent up the price of Turkish goods to artificial heights, which only helped to complete the picture of the economic El Dorado that Turkey was beginning to think she was.

Domestic goods found their way to the markets through Government channels, and professional unions distributed anything from handkerchiefs to piece-goods to retail sellers at fixed prices. Government control of Turkish economy had been put on an emergency basis without there being a war.

Now things have changed, Turkey has not gone to war. Therefore, some of the benefits she has reaped in the past will fall. The British Government sometime ago stated that it wanted to restore trade with foreign countries on a pre-war basis, which means that trade must return to its normal channels: the importer and exporter.

Whilst this trend began to make itself felt in Turkey, came the break in Turkish-German economic relations. "Although our trade with Germany since the outbreak of war was not as voluminous as in pre-war years", writes Esat Tekeli in the semi-official *Ulus*, "it still represented an important total in 1943, when 23.80 per cent of Turkish exports went to Germany, and when German goods constituted 37.70 per cent of our total imports".

Now this gap in Turkish trade must be made good. But what are the possibilities? The Turkish Government had acted as a nurse to Turkish trade. But the Government cannot step in easily now, because it is one thing to deal on Government credits, and another to buy on the world markets.

Of course, the great hitch at the present moment is that nobody wants to buy all the Turkish export goods, because not all can find use for Turkey's staple exports—tobacco and dried-fruit. The Balkan markets are closed, and these took the greater share of Turkey's vegetable-oil and some of the mineral exports.

ADMIRAL LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN.

Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Commander, South-East Asia, is essentially of the twentieth century, and the fashions and vicissitudes of the past 40 years in England have been reflected in his life which began June 25, 1900.

His father, Prince Louis of Battenberg, was Admiral of the Fleet; his mother Princess Victoria, grand-daughter of Queen Victoria and he, following the tradition of many of his ancesters and, more closely, his father, entered the Royal Navy. He went to Osborne Naval College and then to Dartmouth.

A cadet at Dartmouth in 1914, he was a midshipman, slinging his hammock in Admiral Beatty's flagship H. M. S. *Lion* in 1916; second-in-command of an escort vessel in the North Sea by the time he was 18; and, in 1918, a sub-lieutenant in the submarine P 31.

Great advances were being made in wireless and telegraphy in the last years of the war, and though it was not till several years later that Mountbatten was to follow his father, who had invented the Battenberg Course Indicator, in designing instruments, yet it was in these subjects of wireless and signals that he was to specialise and invent devices.

In 1919, Louis Mountbatten, with hundreds of other young and care-free officers, went up to Cambridge. A year later, he came down to accompany the then Prince of Wales, his second-cousin, on his tour of Australia and New Zealand in H. M. S. *Renown*. He was transferred to the *Repulse*, only to return again to his position in the *Renown* of flag-lieutenant and personal A. D. C. when the Prince of Wales made his second tour in 1922 to India, Japan and the Far East.

On his return from the Far East, Mountbatten held several shore appointments, and it was during these years, from 1922 when he married Edwina Ashley, the grand-daughter of Sir Ernest Cassel, until 1928 when he joined the 2nd Destroyer Flotilla as Signal and Wireless Officer (1928-1929), that he was able to lead a social life in London and train a naval polo team.

His next appointment as Wirelesss Officer was in 1931, when he was Fleet Wireless Officer with the Mediterranean Fleet (1931-1933), then in 1934 he was appointed to command his first destroyer, H. M. S. *Daring* (1934-1935). The following year he commanded H. M. S. *Wishart*, before receiving another shore appointment, this time in the Naval Air Division of the Admiralty.

Experience, coupled with many experiments, and aided by the concentration which he is known to apply to any problem, whether one of recreation or mechanics or navigation, brought about the invention of the Mountbatten shutter—a signalling device—and many other instruments which have done much to build up the present wireless communication system of the Royal Navy. Only a couple of years before the war, came the Mountbatten Station Keeper, an instrument that has since been fitted to modern destroyers.

And it was to destroyers that Captain Lord Louis Mountbatten returned on leaving the Admiralty, for in August 1939 he was given command of the 5th Destroyer Flotilla, his ship being the newly commissioned *Kelly*.

Soon the *Kelly* became a legend. Off Norway at the end of 1939 she struck a mine. After 91 hours at the end of a towing cable her Captain brought her home. He was

awarded the D. S. O. for this feat. She was repaired, and in the North Sea again, when a torpedo found her in May 1940. Mountbatten would not abandon her, and after most of the crew had been transferred to another ship, he turned for home, bringing his crippled ship through three days and nights of bombing to be repaired once more. She left the dockyards for the Mediterranean.

In the thick of the fighting off Crete, she was hit again and for the last time (May 23, 1941). Mountabatten and her crew were picked up only after several hours in the water.

With the sinking of the *Kelly*, Mountbatten left the 5th Destroyer Flotilla for H. M. S. *Illustrious*. He had served continuously with the Flotilla since the beginning of the war, transferring to another ship each time the *Kelly* had been put out of action. In 1940 he was commanding H. M. S. *Javelin*, when the Flotilla engaged German destroyers in a night action in the English Channel. The *Javelin*, in the words of an official statement, "was torpedoed during the action but was able to return to port."

He was not long with the aircraft-carrier *Illustrious*, for though the announcement of his appointment as Chief of Combined Operations was not made until March, 1942, he was appointed Adviser on Combined Operations, with the rank of Commodore 1st class, on October 19, 1941. He left Honolulu, where he was visiting the American Fleet at Pearl Harbour, while the *Illustrious* was undergoing repairs in a United States shipyard, and arrived in London by air to take up his new duties on October 27, 1941.

His new duties produced Vaagse, Bruneval, St. Nazaire, Dieppe. There were other raids too in that first period, just as there had been other actions in the *Kelly* of which the tale is not told. And these raids, where the enemy was attacked by a small force which relied on its swiftness, on the darkness of the night, and the element of surprise were very similar to the attacks made by Mountbatten's destroyer flotilla against larger ships in greater force, and which had won him a couple of mentions in despatches besides, the D. S. O.

He had once said: "We cannot win unless soldiers are taken by seaborne expedition escorted by the R. A. F.—in fact, a combined operation."

But for a commando-raid as opposed to a naval engagement there had to be infinite preparation and organisation, to ensure not only that the men arrived at a given point but that they reached it at a certain moment, that they "finished the job" and that they were picked up again.

How exact are the calculations may be judged from Mountbatten's comment on the Vaagse raid: "The time-table went a bit adrift. We were due to land at 8'30 and the first man was not ashore until 8'31"–however, the troops scheduled to withdraw at 3 a. m. had finished by 2. 45 a. m.

Mountbatten is said to have proved himself brilliant at his administrative work. How many of the raids he went on himself is not known but he went through the commando-training himself and he has a maxim: "It's no good telling chaps to do things you can't do yourself."

His knowledge of co-ordinating land, sea, and air operations, and his experience of working with Dominions, Allied, European and American Services were all to be used, for Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten was appointed Supreme Commander, South East Asia on August 25, 1943.

In September, 1943, he was appointed a Commander of the Order of the Bath.

WING COMMANDER J. B. TAIT

LEADER OF ATTACK ON "TIRPITZ"

By "Peterborough"

(*From the Daily Telegraph*).

"Bill" Tait—Wing Commander J. B. Tait, D. S. O., D. F. C., leader of the force of Lancasters which sank the *Tirpitz*—is surely the doyen of Bomber Command's leaders.

He is certainly more experienced, if less decorated, than his immediate predecessors in the crack squadron he now commands, for both Wing Commander Gibson and Wing Commander Cheshire joined service several years after Tait, and neither has a comparable total of flying-hours in his log-book. He is, I am sure, the most decorated of the originally small and now sadly depleted number of cadets who were commissioned with him.

On passing out from Cranwell in 1936, Tait was posted direct to a heavy bomber squadron, and ever since that time he has been associated with "heavies".

Tait is far removed from the popular and, in my experience, erroneous conception of the adventurous young R. A. F. pilot. Shelves of serious books, mostly biographies, line his room, and his library of classical records is one of his treasured possessions, and his conversation reflects his tastes.

Only in one respect does he conform to type. He loves speed on the road, and in peace-time his first love was a long, low, rakish car, which he would either be driving at great speed or dismantling in order to make it go faster.

Of those who are likely to write later a work of imagination and depth with the war as a background and inspiration, I single out Tait as probably one of the most successful.

BAUXITE BEFORE RICE.

(*by V. S. Swaminathan*).

How is it that Japan, who started with several advantages at the time of Pearl Harbour, finds herself in economic straits now? At the time of her treacherous attack Japan enjoyed good interior maritime communications, had excellent port facilities, a well equipped merchant marine and a navy that could not be ignored. She had also, several shipbuilding yards, where both coal and Diesel-powered passenger ships and freighters were built. Japan was also well provided with good land communications in the shape of railways.

Japan embarked on three wars of conquest: with China in 1894–95, with Russia in 1904–05, and the present war with China which began in Manchuria in 1931. By the first half of 1942 she occupied territories which contain pretty nearly everything a great Power needs, including essential commodities and a vast reservoir of unskilled labour.

PRUSSIAN PATTERN FOLLOWED.

The Japanese themselves have been the slaves of their own army, gendarmerie and police. Under Prussian example, the Nipponese Government became a quasi-constitutional monarchy, with scales heavily weighted in favour of militarism. Morally and physically the people of Japan are ill-equipped to defend themselves against tyranny from within. Their culture has a streak of brutality and subservience in it. Their civilisation, in short, is despotic, sophisticated and military. The Japanese government, which is traditional

and authoritarian, is able to command the people's obedience. Suave but dictatorial, it pervades all public and private life.

Men and women in Nippon lead a Spartan life from birth. The former are tough, simply satisfied and used to frugal living, because they have known no other. They never strove to advance the status or rights of their womenfolk, and never permitted the latter's influence to soften or moderate the harsh progress of fanatical militarism. Between a handful of business barons and millions of wretched and poverty-stricken farmers, the middle classes have been driven to an insecurity relieved only by State control and aid.

In short, the Japanese dress as Westerners do, and, in many ways live and act as the latter do, especially in their modern business and industrial life, but they emphatically do not think as Occidentals do. When their own government started exploiting them, they lacked a tradition of rebellion and freedom which might have taught them to stand up for their rights. Their creed, Shintoism, is merely an attempt by a primitive people to rationalise the world about them. It is compounded of reverence for ancestors and Nature-worship. The Emperor was looked upon as "the divine being who unifies." Given this geographical, religious and economic background, the paradox of Japan (like Germany) going bankrupt and getting stronger before Pearl Harbour becomes easy to understand.

What the Far Eastern aggressor needs is time—time to consolidate and exploit undisturbed the great gains of the early half of 1942. She is not getting it.

CRUELTY TO CONQUERED PEOPLES.

The fact is, Japan has bitten off more than she can chew. Also, she has alienated the conquered peoples by uncouth, cruel and atrocious behaviour. No wonder baffling economic difficulties are confronting Japan in the 2,605th year of the empire. Early this year, the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society worked with record speed in "concentrating national sentiment" behind all Bills submitted by the Japanese Cabinet and legalising them.

Japan's difficulties include production, shipping, food, clothing, labour, financial and civil defence problems. Tojo had stressed the imperative need of increasing air power and sea-power, which called for more iron and steel, more light metals, improved land and sea transport and an expanded labour service. The government declared 150 key concerns "munitions companies" in autumn 1943, conceding them priority in raw materials and State funds, and inaugurated a new aircraft cartel. Several projected small blast furnaces to smelt low-grade iron ores to save transport are behind schedule. Other essential industries concerned with textiles, machine-tools, oil and electricity are encountering obstinate bottlenecks.

Shipping is proving the Achilles' heel of Japan. Tokyo Radio is emphatic that the "secure maintenance of the supply route is absolutely essential". And Japan hopes to reduce losses by strengthening sea and air protection to convoys. The constant piling up of materials in the South Sea Islands, and the abandonment of several bases in the Central Pacific, are symptoms of the same disease—lack of merchant shipping which is the life-blood of an overseas empire.

ON THE HOME FRONT

In his report to the Diet, Yamazaki stated that "1944 is the year in which food supplies will be critical". Japan is putting bauxite before rice, pointing out that aluminium ore for making 25,000 aircraft occupies the same shipping space as 1,000,000 tons of rice. The Japanese are urged to change their dietetic habits, and eat more wheat

potatoes and beans instead of rice. Clothing rations have been cut in half, city dwellers get only 50 points instead of 100. Silk kimonos and wool and cotton dresses need 30 points.

Steps have been taken to mobilise more thoroughly women, students and priests for war work. Conscription applies to males between 12 and 60, and females between 12 and 40. Priests between 15 and 45 years have had to divest themselves of their robes and work in armament factories. More Koreans and Chinese are compelled to work in Manchurian rice fields and Japanese coal mines.

The Japanese are having to tighten their belts in other ways too. Budget expenditure for 1944 is estimated at 51,000 million yen, an increase of 8,000 millions over that of 1943, and military expenditure is computed at 38,000 million yen. National income this year is reckoned at 60,000 million yen. There will be only 11,600 million yen for "the people's living expenditures" compared with 19,500 millions in 1941. Railway fares have gone up; so have duties and taxes.

In short, notwithstanding her spectacular gains, Japan has been given little time to reap the benefit. In the absence of sufficient tonnage, the Greater Asia Co-prosperity Sphere has brought only misery to the people on the mainland, as well as to the unhappy subjugated peoples of Burma and the South Sea Islands.

"JAP ARMY AUTHORITIES WORST OFFENDERS."

TREATMENT OF ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR.

(*The Times*).

The statement made in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for War regarding the sufferings of British and Australian prisoners at the hands of the Japanese in the southern areas of the Far East, confirms the worst apprehensions aroused by the refusal of Japanese military authorities to permit the inspection of prisoner-of-war camps under their control.

Had it not been for the gallantry of certain United States submarine crews who, at great hazard, rescued the survivors from a torpedoed prison ship, the world would know nothing of that terrible drama enacted in the primeval forest between Burma and Siam. But now that the facts have been established, the conscience of mankind will have to be satisfied with nothing less than condign punishment of those who are proved responsible.

There is reason to believe that conditions in war prisoners camps vary very much; in proportion as the Japanese civil authorities can exert influence, the treatment meted out becomes progressively less intolerable. It is the army authorities who are the worst offenders; their behaviour is in keeping with both the pride and the brutality that seek to inflict the utmost loss of "face" on Europeans, and with their ostentatious lack of interest in the fate of Japanese prisoners in Allied hands. In their view, the Japanese soldier should win or die, he must not surrender. Humane treatment of Japanese prisoners has no influence on the conduct of the Japanese authorities.

There is thus little that can be done at the moment to mitigate the lot of Allied prisoners in camps which these authorities control. But the Allies must ensure that there is no doubt in the minds either of those who regulate these camps, or of those who are responsible for the enforcement of the regulations, that they will be held responsible in the strictest fashion that human justice can devise for the lives and for the well-being of our gallant men, whom the fortunes of war have committed for a time to their charge.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

(15) "NUTRITION"

Speakers:—Mr. Wickham Steed (Chairman).
Sir John Boyd Orr.
Colonel Norman-Walker.

(Broadcast in the B. B. C.'s Eastern Service, on October 2, 1944).

Steed: In our first two discussions we dealt with the production of food. To-day we discuss another aspect of food—nutrition. To me, the subject of nutrition, or dietetics, is something quite new. When I was a boy I never heard of a calorie, a protein, or a vitamin. Am I wrong in supposing, Sir John Boyd Orr, that this science is only about 30 years old?

Sir John: No, you're quite right. It's about 30 years old. Before that, scientists knew there were certain unknown substances in food which were essential for health. But very little attention was paid to this fact, until it was discovered that a disease called beri-beri was due to the lack of one of these substances in food. Later, it was found that a number of other deficiency-diseases, such as rickets, scurvy and nutrition anæmia, were all due to the lack of some specific substances in the diet.

Steed: I suppose this discovery enabled nutritionists to lay down a general standard of diet which would prevent these diseases?

Sir John:—They took a number of years of research, but by 1935 scientists were able to state approximately the amount of each of the various essential constituents necessary for health, and to draw up a dietary standard.

Steed: Have we in this country improved the standard of nutrition very considerably as a result of these discoveries?

Sir John: Oh, Yes, we have. Partly as a result of these discoveries, but mainly because the economic conditions of the working class in Britain have improved very rapidly. If you compare the consumption of the protective foods before the 1914/18 war—that is, food like milk, dairy products, fruit and vegetables—compare the consumption of these before the last war and before the present war, you will find that they have increased by about 50 per cent. And what's more, there's a corresponding improvement in the health and physique of the people. The gross deficiency diseases which were prevalent have been almost entirely eliminated; the infant mortality rate and the tuberculosis death-rate were cut in half, and children leaving school were about three inches taller than their parents were at the same age.

Steed: When we come to discuss nutrition in India we have to remember the poverty in that country. Now, Colonel Norman-Walker, have you a clear idea how this problem can be tackled in India?

Col. Norman-Walker: One mustn't deal with India as a whole in this matter. It must be dealt with on a provincial basis. The first thing to do, to my mind, is to take the staple diet of the people and interfere as little as possible with their habits, some of which have a religious basis. Then you must add the protective foods in the quantities necessary to give Indians a balanced diet. To-day the diet is definitely unbalanced. Personally, I don't think it's quite true to say that all the malnutrition in India can be attributed to the actual poverty of the people, because the diet of the rich, who can get anything they like, is also hopelessly unbalanced.

Sir John: But surely you will agree that malnutrition is due to poverty.

Col. Norman-Walker: Oh! I didn't say poverty wasn't a factor—I said it wasn't the only factor.

Sir John: But poverty is the big factor in India.

Col. Norman-Walker: Of course, everyone knows that a great number of people are living only just above subsistence level.

Sir John: There are a great many people who are so poor that they're living far below a decent subsistence level.

Col. Norman-Walker: Well, my point is that while poverty in India is one of the great factors it isn't the only one. Another factor is that the social and religious customs of the Hindus encourage them to live on a diet which is definitely unbalanced.

Sir John: I quite agree these customs complicate the problem enormously. But the fact remains that there isn't the food in India to satisfy the hungry, let alone give them a sufficient diet.

Col. Norman-Walker: That depends on the monsoon. In a good monsoon, there's plenty.

Steed: What, Colonel Norman-Walker, is the staple diet of an Indian family?

Col. Norman-Walker: It varies entirely in different parts of India. In the North of India there are sturdy races like the Sikhs and the Jats in a wheat and milk-producing country, who are splendidly developed. Amongst those people it would be almost impossible to find any signs of malnutrition. Malnutrition is a definite disease, and its signs are quite easy to find among the poorer classes in the towns, but they're much less evident in country places. India is a poor country, but the people accommodate themselves to a diet which would be quite insufficient in other countries.

Steed: Would you agree, then, that both rich and poor in India have a badly balanced diet?

Col. Norman-Walker: No. Not in North-West India where there's plenty of milk. At the same time conditions are specials and consumption has, I regret to say, declined since 1935. I think Sir John will agree that milk will make up for almost any deficiency.

Sir John: Milk will make up for the greatest of the deficiencies, but all the people can't get sufficient milk, and I think that the first cause of malnutrition in every country in the world, including India, is poverty.

Steed: Your point, Colonel Norman-Walker, is that the ill-balanced diet is due to ignorance as well as to poverty.

Col. Norman-Walker: Poverty is one of the greatest factors, but it isn't by any means the only factor. The rich Hindu, for instance, eats a diet which has an undue preponderance of starchy food, though he can afford to buy fruit and green vegetables, and so avoid most of the troubles of malnutrition, but his rice is polished-rice and when beri-beri is about he's very likely to develop it.

Steed: Now, Sir John, I gather that nutritionists place milk very high on the list of protective foods.

Sir John: And rightly so, because milk is rich in many of the vitamins and minerals which are deficient in poor diets—and indeed in Scotland experiments were done over 20 years ago which showed that when children who were considered in normal health, were given a pint of milk a day at school in addition to the food they were getting at home, there was a great improvement in their health and vitality, and their rate of growth increased by 20 per cent. Now, experiments of the same kind have been done in all countries, and where the food is worst the response in health is the greatest.

Steed: And what about the supply of milk in India?

Col. Norman-Walker: Except for the North-West, there's shortage of milk all over India. The awful thing is that India is supporting a very large number of cattle, two-thirds of which are consuming pasture and producing absolutely nothing except their skins.

Sir John: This question of the cattle in India is very important. There are more than 200,000,000 head of cattle in India, and the average yield of the cow in India is only 60 gallons per annum, while the average yield of a cow in England is 600 gallons. What's more, there isn't the food in India to feed more than about two-fifths of these cattle.

Col. Norman-Walker: The tragedy of all this is that the pregnant woman and the nursing mother can't get enough milk. If the infant for any reason loses its mother it's almost sure to die. The infant mortality rate is enormous, and quite incalculable, because of the hopeless methods of recording vital statistics.

Sir John: That's quite true. The amount of milk in India is far too small in proportion to the needs of the people. But in normal times there's an abundance of milk in Australia and New Zealand, and sometimes there's a surplus of dried skim-milk. To send that milk to India in the form of dried milk from New Zealand and Australia would be one means of improving the nutrition of the people of India. This is one of the first things the World Food and Agriculture Organisation should do.

Steed: If they could do that it would have a startling effect. I understand that half the mortality recorded in India occurs among children under 10 years, and that this is due to malnutrition. Then there's the question of water. Is the water clean?

Col. Norman-Walker: No. In many places it is contaminated. But the water problem is really only a matter of expenditure—or I should prefer to use the word "investment." Because a properly arranged water-supply in a town doesn't entail a loss, it should pay its way. There are large towns in India which haven't yet been provided with a proper water-supply. In many places it's drawn up from wells, and in all the villages throughout India these are, with very few exceptions, surface wells, and this means that unless properly constructed and controlled they're liable to all sorts of pollution, not only from the well itself but from the soil. These wells are responsible for widespread epidemics of cholera, and other water-borne diseases.

Steed: If you import dried milk it'll be polluted before it can be drunk, unless the improvement in the water comes first.

Col. Norman-Walker: I have a great belief that the first stage in the correction of malnutrition errors in India is a thorough overhaul of the water-supplies in both the towns and the villages, and that of course includes the water-supply for cattle. Yet

there are areas where anything like a really ample supply would be extraordinarily difficult. I've seen whole cotton factories moved hundreds of miles away because the source of water failed.

Sir John: I think this is terribly important. I agree that improving the water-supply is absolutely essential to increase the food production in India, and a pure water-supply for the people in India is absolutely essential. The question of water in India seems to me to be an engineering problem.

Col. Norman-Walker: Then, of course, there's the question of fertilisation. I saw a piece of land in India divided into two. One part was fertilised with compost and the other was not. They both got the same water-supply, and both were planted with the same seed. The yield of the manured plot was five times as great as that of the unmanured.

Steed: Could you get round the shortage of natural manure by using artificial substitutes?

Sir John: Yes, to a certain extent by fertilisers like nitrates and phosphates. But in addition to these you must have something in the soil which will conserve the moisture, and the Indian soil is lacking in the humus that holds the moisture. And, as you know, in India cow-dung-which should go to the soil, is largely used for firing.

Steed: Yes. Now another question. What about ghee?

Col. Norman-Walker: Ghee forms an important part of Indian diet, but this again depends upon the amount of milk produced.

Steed: In your view, Norman-Walker, what should be the order of priority for milk as between the different members of a family consisting, we'll say, of father, mother and three children?

Col. Norman-Walker: I should give it first to the infant through the expectant and nursing mothers. Do you agree, Sir John?

Sir John: I agree. Colonel Norman-Walker's perfectly right.

Col. Norman-Walker: I think that second to milk, green vegetables among the protective foods, are the next most important. After them eggs and meat. There are green vegetables that can be grown quite cheaply in India, but they need encouraging to grow them.

Sir John: Give them plenty of dried milk and plenty of green vegetables and after that plenty to eat of any thing else you like, so long as you give them sufficient.

Col. Norman-Walker: I agree. Mc. Carrison says "Milk and vegetables are the healthiest diet of mankind."

Steed: Do they grow lettuces and cabbages in the villages?

Col. Norman-Walker: In very few places. Leaves of root-crops, are about all they have! But any green leaves that aren't actually poisonous are of real value.

Sir John: Yes. And the greener the better!

Col. Norman-Walker: They give you Vitamin C. If you can get oranges and tomatoes you're all right, but oranges are not very common in India and there are no tomatoes.

Steed: Has Russia anything to teach India about nutrition?

Sir John: I think Russia has a great deal to teach both us and India. Russia has planned her nutrition more rapidly than any other country. While I've never been in Russia, from what I've heard, Russia is applying this new knowledge of nutrition more rapidly than any other country. Russia has concentrated on her woman and children. She has taken great parts of the land there that were thought to be useless, and applied modern engineering technical science to them. Now she's growing food and the standard of living is rising. If that can be done in Russia, it can be done in India too, but it will need an all-out effort.

Col. Norman-Walker: Of course, we're up against religious sanctions and ancient customs. Some people won't eat fish or eggs, and the vast majority of the population eat no meat. All, however, will eat fruit.

Steed: What about bread?

Sir John: Well, white bread is the same problem as the polished rice. It doesn't contain the vitamin which the old stone-ground flour does. There's no reason why you shouldn't have machinery and still preserve the essential vitamins in the flour.

Steed: We still haven't decided how India can get a reasonable standard of feeding.

Col. Norman-Walker: I suppose the question how that problem can best be tackled is one for the Education Department. I would like more direct representation of the Education Department on the Nutritional Advisory Committee.

Sir John: You can't hope to get a diet for the whole population of India on a health standard for a long time. The first thing is to get help for India from outside, and this is in accordance with the decision of the Hot Springs Conference.

Steed: But doesn't this apply to the whole of Asia?

Sir John: Oh yes, of course it does. Seventy-five per cent of the population of Asia, which is more than half the population of the whole world, lives on a diet far below the standard of health. Of course it's up to the Government. If it isn't the first duty of the Government to see that the people it governs are well fed, what is the first duty?

Steed: Some people think it's a trend towards socialism?

Sir John: It's a trend towards common-sense. The fact that the problem is so big in India is a challenge to the whole world, and the United Nations have taken up that challenge in the Hot Springs Conference. They recommend that all the nations of the world should co-operate to bring freedom from want of food to all men.

Col. Norman-Walker: One may hope that similarly all communities in India will co-operate.

Steed: Yet Government is responsible for India as a whole; and from this standpoint it matters little whether the central authority is mainly British or entirely Indian. We are agreed, I think, that malnutrition is one of the greatest evils of Indian national life; that far greater supplies of milk, in various forms, are needed; that a pure water-supply is as important as an adequate milk-supply; that more vegetables and fruit ought to be grown, and the people be taught to eat them; and that a vast development of industry is required both to decrease the pressure of population on the land and to diminish poverty by enabling industrial workers to earn better wages.

All this is an immense problem that calls for a big programme of improvement. If our discussion has helped to throw light upon it, I think it will have served a useful purpose.

Tour Programme of Subahdar G. Loganathan, Extra Assistant Recruiting Officer, Tanjore, for the month of December, 1944.

12—12—44	Tuesday	Proceeding to Pudukkottai—Recruitment and Halt.			
13—12—44	Wednesday	Do.	Alangudi	Do.	a Halt at Pudukkottai.
14—12—44	Thursday	Do.	Arantangi	Do.	and Halt.
15—12—44	Friday	Do.	Pudukkottai	Do.	
16—12—44	Saturday	Do.	Return to Headquarters.		

The Recruiting Officer will be accommodated in the Traveller's Bungalow.

'V' DIARY, 1945.

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3-12-44	Kiranur	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Killukottai	... 7.30 ,,
,,	Nanjur	... 7.30 ,,	7-12-44	Mirattunilai	... 7.00 ,,
4-12-44	Kudumiyamalai	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Arimalam	... 7.30 ,,
,,	Parambur	... 7.30 ,,	8-12-44	P. Puduppatti	... 7.00 ,,
5-12-44	Perungalur	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Vendampatti	... 7.30 ,,
,,	Adanakkottai	... 7.30 ,,			

LECTURE CCXXVII (*Batch 1*).

9-12-44	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.	13-12-44	Kulipirai	... 7.00 p.m
10-12-44	Puvarasakudi	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Sevalur	... 7.30 ,,
,,	Venkatakulam	... 7.30 ,,	14-12-44	Panayappatti	... 7.00 ,,
11-12-44	Vengalur	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Bangiyam	... 7.30 ,,
,,	Konapattu	... 7.30 ,,	15-12-44	Kodumbalur	... 7.00 ,,
12-12-44	Andakkulam	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Viralur	... 7.30 ,,
,,	Killanur	... 7.30 ,,			

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2—12—44	Ponnamaravathi.	9—12—44	Tirumayyam.
3—12—44	Virachchilai.	10—12—44	Tittanviduthi.
5—12—44	Perambur.	12—12—44	Vadakadu.
7—12—44	Kulipirai.	14—12—44	Kilanilai.
8—12—44	Pudukkottai.	15—12—44	Pudukkottai.

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